

business and industrial coordinating council



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ROLAND E. STEWART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 18, 1970

Dicc Ed By

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Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Sir:

Attached is a provocative report prepared under the direction of Mr. Pedro Iglesias, Newark Pre-School Council and a BICC Committee co-chairman.

With a recruited army of two (a mother of thirteen and a sixteen year old young man), Mr. Iglesias has compiled "Street" facts to act as a catalyst in solving some of the problems confronting the Spanish-speaking community of Newark.

This infancy of concern spent two weekends of street corner interviewing to prepare this information and stimulate actions.

Mr. Iglesias's committee is to be congratulated for exemplifying this initiative. They have excavated, hoping others will join them in building opportunities for the "Speak Some English" group of our area.

This noteworthy dedication now glares at you and me, inquiring, "What will you do about it?"

BICC has undertaken a task of studying what responsive actions your agency or entity will take to indicate active concern and interest in the problems of the Spanish speaking.

Please forward copies of proposals or plans of action to us. With no report, we may probably assume you plan to do nothing.

May I hear from you shortly.

Sincerely,

Roland E. Stewart

Roland E. Stewart
Executive Director

SPANISH EMPLOYMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 10-26-70

The purpose of this sub-committee was to study the employment situation of the Spanish-speaking people of Newark. What follows are the results of a survey taken by the sub-committee in the city of Newark.

Table - 1 This table represents the level of English of the person and the type of work he does when employed.

	SKILLED	UNSKILLED	SEMI-PROF.	PROFESSIONAL	TOTAL	%
Speaks English	29	69	11	8	117	24%
Speaks Some English	14	224	6	2	246	50%
Speaks No English	21	101	7	1	130	26%
Totals	64	394	24	11	493	
%	13%	80%	5%	2%		

Table - 2 Represents the rate of employment and level of English.

	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	TOTALS	%
Speaks English	71	46	117	
Speaks Some English	102	144	246	
Speaks No English	52	78	130	
Totals	225	268	493	
%	45%	55%		

Table - 3 Represents the educational level and the level of English.

	0 to 8th grade	9th to 11th grade	H.S. Grad.	Total	%
Speaks English	66	34	17	117	
Speaks Some English	104	131	11	246	
Speaks No English	65	58	7	130	
Totals	235	223	35	493	
%	48%	45%	7%		

Table - 4 Represents the rate of employment of the skilled workers and their level of English.

SKILLED WORKERS

	Speaks Eng.	Speaks Some Eng.	Speaks No Eng.	Total	%
Employed	18	5	10	33	51%
Unemployed	11	9	11	31	49%
Totals	29	14	21	64	
%	45%	22%	33%		

Table - 5 Represents the rate of employment of the unskilled workers and their level of English.

UNSKILLED WORKERS

	Speaks Eng.	Speaks Some Eng.	Speaks No Eng.	Total	%
Employed	41	93	41	175	44%
Unemployed	28	131	60	219	56%
Totals	69	224	101	394	
%	17%	57%	26%		

THE FACTS

- 1) Seventy-six per cent (76%) of the persons interviewed cannot converse in English.
- 2) Eighty percent (80%) of the persons interviewed are unskilled workers.
- 3) Fifty-five percent (55%) are unemployed.
- 4) Ninety-three percent (93%) do not have a H.S. diploma.
- 5) Forty-nine percent (49%) of the skilled workers are unemployed.
- 6) Fifty-six percent (56%) of the unskilled workers are unemployed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the statistics clearly show, the problems of education and employment facing the Spanish-speaking community of Newark, are of tremendous dimensions. It is the opinion of this sub-committee that our agency, BICC, cannot tackle these problems all at once or by itself.

We would like to see BICC take the initiative in the aid of the "Speak Some English" group, which constitutes 50% of the sample, by designing and sponsoring a massive adult education and training program for them. This sub-committee feels that by concentrating our efforts on those who have a basic knowledge of English we will increase our effectiveness, achieve quicker results and gain experience to be used later in the more troublesome areas.

This sub-committee asks the Board of Trustees of BICC and its Executive Director to begin immediately a plan of action dealing with the mentioned problems.

Definitions

Skilled workers - Persons who possessed a trade (carpentry) or operated a machine that required special training.

Unskilled workers - Persons employed in restaurants, janitors and general factory work.

Speaks English - Able to carry on a conversation in English.

Speaks Some Eng. - Has a very basic knowledge of the language, being able to answer questions like, "What is your name?".

No English - No understanding of the language at all.

Other Information

- 1) Questionnaires were distributed throughout the city, but those areas with the heaviest Spanish population were the main targets.
- 2) The average age of the people interviewed was approx. 28 years.
- 3) About 75% of those interviewed were males.
- 4) Those persons who were employed were not asked their place of employment, but most of the companies are located in the Newark metropolitan area.

NUMBER _____

1. Que clase de trabajo hace?

(What type of work do you do?)

2. Hasta que grado fue a la escuela?

(Up to what grade did you go to school?)

3. Habla ingles?

(Do you speak english?)

Marque uno: (check one)

Mucho (a lot)

Poco (some)

Nada (none)

4. Estas trabajando?

(are you working?)